measurs as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions, setting up of Special Economic Zones. Besides these, the measures announced in the new Exim Policy 2001-2002 *inter-alia* include promotion of agricultural exports, market access initiative, setting up business cum trade facilitation center, etc. Some of the recent measures taken to promote exports include reduction in the export credit rate for both pre-shipment and post-shipment, special financial package to manufacturer exporters with an export contract of Rs 100 crores or above for a period of one year from October 2001, extension of normal repatriation period from 180 days to 360 days for exports made to Latin American countries for a period of one year and upward revision of duty drawback rates on a number of product groups. Export performance is constantly being monitored and measures are being taken to reduce the trade deficit.

Committee on Investment Clearance Procedures

949. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as part of the Prime Minister's initiative to pump prime the economy, Government have set up a high-level Committee to suggest measures for expediting the process of public and private investment;

(b) if so, who are the members of this Committee;

(c) the main functions of this Committee;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Committee will suggest measures to simplify procedures for clearing major public investment projects; and

(e) if so, whether the formation of this Committee has helped in implementing the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (e) The Government has set up a Committee to examine the extant procedures for investment approvals and implementation of

projects and suggest measures to simplify and expedite the process for both public and private investment. The details of the Members of this Committee and its functions are enclosed as Statement (*See* below). The recommendations of the Committee, as and when received, will be taken up for consideration and appropriate action by the Government in consultation with concerned ministries and state governments.

Statement

Members of the Committee

1. Shri V.N. Kaul, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas Convener

2. Shri P.V. Jayakrishana, Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests

3. Shri A.K. Basu, Secretary, Ministry of Power

4. Shri C.M. Vasudev, Secretary, Department of Expenditure

5. Shri Shyamal Ghose, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications

6. Shri Vinod Vaish, Secretary, Ministry of Labour

7. Shri Pradip Baijal, Secretary, Department of Disinvestment

8. Shri V. Govindarajan, Secretary, Department of IPP

9. Dr. Rakesh Mohan, Advisor to FM & Chief Economic Advisor, DEA

10. Shri K.V. Irniraya, Secretary, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation

11. Dr. Pradipto Ghose, Additional Secretary, PMO

12. Shri N.S. Sisodia, Additional Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat Member Secretary

The Committee will suggest measures to simplify the procedures. A Sub-Group headed by Secretary, IPP has been constituted to make specific suggestions regarding effective

simplification of procedures relating to private investment. These suggestions would be incorporated in the main report.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation will service the Committee.

Sick Industries in Orissa

950. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of industries have fallen sick in Orissa;

(b) if so, the list of such industries in Orissa as on 31st October, 2001;

(c) the reasons of the sickness of those industries; and

(d) the details of the steps being taken to resolve the problem of sickness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Data on sick industrial units, assisted by banks in the country, is compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). According to the RBI, the number of non-SSI sick/weak industrial units in the State of Orissa as at the end of March, 2001 was 59. The list of these industries is enclosed as statement. (*See* below).

(c) According to RBI report, a number of causes, both internal and external, often operating in combination, have been responsible for industrial sickness. The main causes include deficiencies in planning, management, marketing etc.

(d) The Government has taken number of steps for revival of sick industrial units which, *inter-alia*, include, guidelines of the RBI to banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, National Equity Fund etc.